

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

LYNN WOOLSEY
6TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEES:
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION REFORM
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE PROTECTIONS
SCIENCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY
WEB PAGE AND E-MAIL:
<http://www.woolsey.house.gov>

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0506

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2263 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0506
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-6161
DISTRICT OFFICES:
1101 COLLEGE AVENUE, SUITE 200
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
TELEPHONE: (707) 542-7182
NORTHGATE BUILDING
1050 NORTHGATE DRIVE, SUITE 354
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903
TELEPHONE: (415) 507-9554

January 14, 2005

M. Bosco
Doug Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway St.
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express my support for the application submitted by the County of Sonoma Regional Parks Department for grant funding through the Coastal Conservancy San Francisco Bay Area Program to acquire the Tolay Lake Ranch Property. The Tolay Lake property is located in Southern Sonoma County, a portion of the county with the least amount of accessible park acreage.

It is my understanding that with this funding Sonoma County will be able to restore Tolay Lake and creek habitat as well as create a regional park. This area of the county has only 2.4 acres of parkland per 1000 people. Far lower than the County's standard for open space regional parkland, 15 acres per 1000 people. Opening up this land for public use will bring an assortment of outdoor recreation to this underserved population, while highlighting the region's agricultural heritage.

This project will greatly benefit the 6th Congressional District. I urge you to give this application your full and careful consideration. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Deborah Quam in my Santa Rosa office at (707) 542-7182.

Sincerely,

Lynn Woolsey

Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress

LW: dq

Cc: Elizabeth Tyree; Sonoma County Regional Parks, 2300 County Center Dr., Suite 120A, Santa Rosa, California 95403

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JAN 18 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 445-1412

California State Senate

SENATOR
CAROLE MIGDEN
THIRD SENATE DISTRICT



January 14, 2005

migden

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, California 94612

Doug
Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to add my support to Sonoma County Regional Parks Department's application for funding through the Coastal Conservancy San Francisco Bay Area Program to acquire Tolay Lake Ranch property.

The acquisition of the 1,737-acre Tolay Lake Ranch offers an unprecedented opportunity to restore and enhance Tolay Lake, the Tolay Lake valley and the surrounding uplands and ridge tops. Situated in Sonoma County between Petaluma and Sonoma Valley, Tolay Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake in the county and the only remaining in San Pablo Bay watershed.

Tolay Creek flows into Tolay Lake from Sonoma Mountain then on to San Pablo. The purchase of the Tolay Lake Ranch will place 20% of the Tolay Creek watershed under public ownership and protection, including over a mile of the creek channel.

This acquisition will protect a diverse ecosystem including open water lake and ponds, freshwater marshes, seasonal wetlands, riparian and upland habitats. Unique grasslands and oak woodland grace the rolling landscape. At least 12 known species of "special status" are on the property including Red-legged frog, Burrowing Owl, Northwestern Pond Turtle, Golden Eagle, White Tailed Kite, Lark and the Northern Harrier.

Acquiring the property will provide opportunity for over 12 miles of trails for hiking, cycling, and horseback riding along with wildlife-related recreation and education opportunities. Several vistas provide spectacular views of the

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

Petaluma River basin, Mt. Tamalpias, San Francisco, Oakland, Mt. Diablo, and other points in the adjacent six counties within the northern Bay Area.

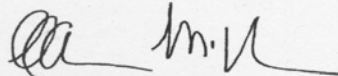
Populations from the northern Bay Area are already drawn to the site. The Pumpkin Festival in 2003 attracted park survey participants from over 550 households from 13 counties around the Bay Area.

The acquisition of this property is being pursued through a partnership between Sonoma County's Regional Parks Department and Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District. Grant funds have been secured from a number of sources including State Parks, private foundations, and individuals. However, \$8 million still is needed.

If this project is not quickly implemented the opportunity may be lost. The option to acquire the property expires April 2005, with the property returning to the open market. A back-up offer has been made. If Tolay Lake Ranch is privately purchased, up to 28 "ranchettes" could be developed, limiting public access and fragmenting habitat.

I hope you will do everything possible to secure funding for the preservation of this unique property. If I can provide any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


CAROLE MIGDEN

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JAN 18 2005
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

cc: Philip Sales, Sonoma County Regional Parks, 2300 County Center Dr
#120A, Santa Rosa CA 95403
Andrea Mackenzie, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open
Space District, 747 Mendocino Ave Ste. 400, Santa Rosa CA 95401

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942848
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0008
(916) 319-2006
DISTRICT OFFICE
3501 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE
ROOM 412
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903
(415) 479-4920
(707) 938-8157

Assembly California Legislature

JOE NATION

ASSEMBLYMAN, SIXTH DISTRICT
Representing Marin and Sonoma Counties



January 21, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to add my support to Sonoma County Regional Parks Department's application for funding through the Coastal Conservancy San Francisco Bay Area Program to acquire Tolay Lake Ranch property.

The acquisition of the 1,737-acre Tolay Lake Ranch offers an unprecedented opportunity to restore and enhance Tolay Lake, the Tolay Lake valley and the surrounding uplands and ridge tops. Situated in Sonoma County between Petaluma and Sonoma Valley, Tolay Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake in the county and the only remaining in the San Pablo Bay watershed. Tolay Creek flows into Tolay Lake from Sonoma Mountain then on to San Pablo. The purchase of the Tolay Lake Ranch will place 20% of the Tolay Creek watershed under public ownership and protection, including over a mile of the creek channel.

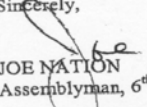
This acquisition will protect a diverse ecosystem including open water lake and ponds, freshwater marshes, seasonal wetlands, riparian and upland habitats. Unique grasslands and oak woodland grace the rolling landscape. At least twelve known species of "special status" are on the property including Red-legged frog, Burrowing Owl, Northwestern Pond Turtle, Golden Eagle, White Tailed Kite, Lark and the Northern Harrier. Acquiring the property will also provide over twelve miles of trails for hiking, cycling, and horseback riding along with wildlife-related recreation and education opportunities.

Acquiring this property is a project in partnership with Sonoma County's Regional Parks Department and the Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District. Grant funds have been secured from a number of sources including State Parks, private foundations, and individuals. However, \$8 million is still needed.

This opportunity must be seized quickly or it may be lost. The option to acquire the property expires April 2005, with the property returning to the open market. A back-up offer has been made. If Tolay Lake Ranch is privately purchased, up to 28 "ranchettes" could be developed, limiting public access and fragmenting habitat.

I strongly urge you to do everything possible to secure funding for the preservation of this unique property.

Sincerely,


JOE NATION
Assemblyman, 6th District

cc: Philip Sales, Sonoma County Regional Parks
Andrea Mackenzie, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District

JN: mwl
R1

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

02/08/2005 15:11 FAX 916 319 2101

ASSEMBLYMEMBER BERG

002

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834-2849
PH (916) 319-2001
FAX (916) 319-2101
DISTRICT OFFICES:
50 D STREET, SUITE 450
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
PH (707) 578-2553
FAX (707) 578-2297
104 WEST CHURCH STREET
UKIAH, CA 95483
PH (707) 463-6770
FAX (707) 463-6770
235 4TH STREET, SUITE C
EUREKA, CA 95501
PH (707) 446-7014
FAX (707) 446-6007

Assembly California Legislature



PATTY BERG
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIRST DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:
AGING & LONG-TERM CARE, CIVIL
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
WATER, PARKS & WILDLIFE
JOINT COMMITTEE:
FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE, CIVIL
SELECT COMMITTEES:
SUSTAINABILITY, CIVIL
CALIFORNIA INDIAN NATIONS
CALIFORNIA PORTS
CALIFORNIA WINE
COASTAL PROTECTION
EARTHQUAKE SAFETY & PREPAREDNESS
ELDER ABUSE
RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

January 19, 2005

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing in support of Sonoma County Regional Parks Department's application for funding through the Coastal Conservancy San Francisco Bay Area Program to acquire Tolay Lake Ranch property.

The acquisition of the 1,737-acre Tolay Lake Ranch offers an unprecedented opportunity to restore and enhance Tolay Lake, the Tolay Lake valley and the surrounding uplands and ridge tops. Situated in Sonoma County between Petaluma and Sonoma Valley, Tolay Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake in the county and the only one remaining in San Pablo Bay watershed.

Tolay Creek flows into Tolay Lake from Sonoma Mountain then on to San Pablo. The purchase of the Tolay Lake Ranch will place 20% of the Tolay Creek watershed under public ownership and protection, including over a mile of the creek channel.

This acquisition will protect a diverse ecosystem including open water lake and ponds, freshwater marshes, seasonal wetlands, riparian and upland habitats. Unique grasslands and oak woodland grace the rolling landscape. At least 12 known species of "special status" are on the property including Red-legged frog, Burrowing Owl, Northwestern Pond Turtle, Golden Eagle, White Tailed Kite, Lark and the Northern Harrier. In addition, the land is rich with Native American history and tradition.

Acquiring the property will provide opportunity for over 12 miles of trails for hiking, cycling, and horseback riding along with wildlife-related recreation and education opportunities. Several vistas provide spectacular views of the Petaluma River basin, Mt. Tamalpais, San Francisco, Oakland, Mt. Diablo, and other points in the adjacent six counties within the northern Bay Area.

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

02/08/2005 15:11 FAX 916 319 2101

ASSEMBLYMEMBER BERG

003

January 19, 2005
Chairman Bosco
Page 2

Populations from the northern Bay Area are already drawn to the site. The Pumpkin Festival in 2003 attracted park survey participants from over 550 households from 13 counties around the Bay Area.

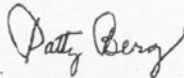
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If this project is not quickly implemented the opportunity may be lost. The option to acquire the property expires April 2005, with the property returning to the open market. A back-up offer has been made. If Tolay Lake Ranch is privately purchased, up to 28 "ranchettes" could be developed, limiting public access and fragmenting habitat. Further, the Cordozza family, the current owners of Tolay Lake Ranch, have a strong desire to see this land be used for the above stated purposes and not be developed.

I hope you will do everything possible to secure funding for the preservation of this unique property. If I can provide any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



PATTY BERG
Assemblymember, 1st District

cc: Philip Sales, Sonoma County Regional Parks
Andrea Mackenzie, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0007
(916) 319-2007
FAX (916) 319-2107

Assembly California Legislature



NOREEN EVANS
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTH DISTRICT

January 18, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to add my support to Sonoma County Regional Parks Department's application for funding through the Coastal Conservancy San Francisco Bay Area Program to acquire Tolay Lake Ranch property.

The acquisition of the 1,737-acre Tolay Lake Ranch offers an unprecedented opportunity to restore and enhance Tolay Lake, the Tolay Lake valley and the surrounding uplands and ridge tops. Situated in Sonoma County between Petaluma and Sonoma Valley, Tolay Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake in the county and the only remaining in San Pablo Bay watershed.

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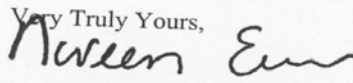
Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

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I hope you will do everything possible to secure funding for the preservation of this unique property. If I can provide any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very Truly Yours,



NOREEN EVANS
Assemblymember, 7th District

cc: Philip Sales, Sonoma County Regional Parks, 2300 County Center Dr #120A, Santa Rosa
CA 95403
Andrea Mackenzie, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District,
747 Mendocino Ave Ste. 400, Santa Rosa CA 95401

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support



Loni Hancock

ASSEMBLYWOMAN, FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:

BUDGET,
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
EDUCATION
JUDICIARY
LABOR & EMPLOYMENT
NATURAL RESOURCES
RULES

JOINT LEGISLATIVE BUDGET

SELECT COMMITTEE ON BRIDGING
THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP, CHAIR

January 18, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to add my support to Sonoma County Regional Parks Department's application for funding through the Coastal Conservancy San Francisco Bay Area Program to acquire Tolay Lake Ranch property. While this property lies beyond the borders of the Assembly District I represent, the acquisition of the 1,737-acre Tolay Lake Ranch offers an unprecedented opportunity to restore and enhance property that will benefit the surrounding communities as well.

Situated in Sonoma County between Petaluma and Sonoma Valley, Tolay Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake in the county and the only remaining in San Pablo Bay watershed. Tolay Creek flows into Tolay Lake from Sonoma Mountain then on to San Pablo.

The purchase of the Tolay Lake Ranch will place 20% of the Tolay Creek watershed under public ownership and protection, including over a mile of the creek channel. This acquisition will protect a diverse ecosystem including open water, lake and ponds, freshwater marshes, seasonal wetlands, riparian and upland habitats. Unique grasslands and oak woodland grace the rolling landscape. At least 12 known species of "special status" are on the property including Red-legged frog, Burrowing Owl, Northwestern Pond Turtle, Golden Eagle, White Tailed Kite, Lark and the Northern Harrier.

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Douglas Bosco

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01/18/05

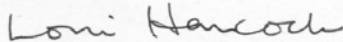
Populations from the northern Bay Area are already drawn to the site. The Pumpkin Festival in 2003 attracted park survey participants from over 550 households from 13 counties around the Bay Area.

The acquisition of this property is being pursued through a partnership between Sonoma County's Regional Parks Department and Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District. Grant funds have been secured from a number of sources including State Parks, private foundations, and individuals. However, \$8 million still is needed.

If this project is not quickly implemented the opportunity may be lost. The option to acquire the property expires April 2005, with the property returning to the open market. A back-up offer has been made. If Tolay Lake Ranch is privately purchased, up to 28 "ranchettes" could be developed, limiting public access and fragmenting habitat.

I hope you will do everything possible to secure funding for the preservation of this unique property. As Chair of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, I welcome the opportunity to offer my support to this unique project. If I can provide any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



LONI HANCOCK
Assemblywoman

cc: Philip Sales
Sonoma County Regional Parks
2300 County Center Drive, #120A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Andrea Mackenzie
Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
747 Mendocino Avenue, Suite 400, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

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JAN 21 2005
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support



530 C Alameda del Prado #139
Novato, CA 94949
(415) 883-3854
(415) 883-3850 Fax
www.sfbayjv.org

MANAGEMENT BOARD:

Bay Area Audubon Council
Bay Area Open Space Council
Bay Planning Coalition
Citizens Committee to
Complete the Refuge
Ducks Unlimited
National Audubon Society
Point Reyes Bird Observatory
PG&E Corporation
Save San Francisco Bay
Association
Sierra Club
The Bay Institute
The Conservation Fund
Urban Creeks Council

Ex-Officio Members:

Bay Conservation &
Development Commission
California Department
of Fish and Game
California Resources Agency
Coastal Conservancy
Coastal Region, Mosquito &
Vector Control District
National Fish and Wildlife
Foundation
National Marine Fisheries
Service
Natural Resources
Conservation Service
Regional Water Quality Control
Board, SF Bay Region
San Francisco Estuary Project
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Wildlife Conservation Board

February 2, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing on behalf of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture to support the Sonoma County Regional Parks' application for funding for the acquisition of the Tolay Lake Ranch property in Southern Sonoma County.

The San Francisco Bay Joint Venture has identified Tolay Lake Ranch as a current high priority project for acquisition. Tolay Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake in Sonoma County and is the only remaining freshwater lake in the San Pablo Bay watershed. The acquisition will protect a diverse ecosystem including the open water lake and ponds, freshwater marshes, seasonal wetlands, riparian and upland habitats. The property provides unique habitat that supports wintering and nesting waterfowl as they move back and forth from San Pablo Bay for feeding and nesting and as buffering shelter during storms. It also provides habitat for at least 12 known species of "special status" including Red-legged frog, Burrowing Owl, Northwestern Pond Turtle, Golden Eagle, White Tailed Kite, Lark and the Northern Harrier.

While the purpose of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture is to protect and restore habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wildlife, the Joint Venture recognizes the importance of public access for wildlife and open space recreation. The acquisition of Tolay Lake will provide access to hiking trails and wildlife viewing currently not accessible to southern Sonoma County residents.

The San Francisco Bay Joint Venture recognizes the importance of this property and is willing to continue to assist with efforts to secure funding for the preservation and restoration of this unique property. Thank you for your consideration of this funding request. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact the Joint Venture Coordinator, Beth Huning, at the above address.

Sincerely,

Ellie Cohen

Ellie Cohen
Chair *efB*

cc: Grant Davis, The Bay Institute
Philip Sales, Sonoma County Regional Parks
Andrea Mackenzie, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
Elizabeth Tyree, Sonoma County Regional Parks

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FEB 10 2005
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

A Partnership for Wetlands & Wildlife



Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

350 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 900
Oakland, CA 94612-2016

t. 510.452.9261
f. 510.452.9266

www.saveSFbay.org

February 4, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

SPRUELLMAN / ARNOLD

Dear Mr. Chairman:

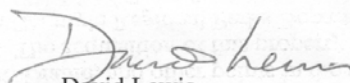
Save The Bay urges the Coastal Conservancy's support for a grant to the Sonoma County Regional Park Agency to acquire the 1,737-acre Tolay Lake Ranch.

Save The Bay is a membership organization representing 10,000 families throughout the San Francisco Bay Area working to protect and restore the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. Tolay Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake in Sonoma county and the only remaining in San Pablo Bay watershed. This property offers an unprecedented opportunity to restore and enhance Tolay Lake, the Tolay Lake valley and the surrounding uplands and ridge tops. These areas form the headwaters of Tolay Creek, which Save The Bay has worked to restore at its mouth and lower reaches along San Pablo Bay.

Acquiring this property will provide opportunity for over 12 miles of trails for hiking, cycling, and horseback riding along with wildlife-related recreation and education opportunities. Several vistas provide spectacular views of the Petaluma River basin, Mt. Tamalpais, San Francisco, Oakland, Mt. Diablo, and other points in the adjacent six counties within the northern Bay Area. The acquisition of this property is being pursued through a partnership between Sonoma County's Regional Parks Department and Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District. Grant funds have been secured from a number of sources including State Parks, private foundations, and individuals. However, \$8 million still is needed to secure the property under an option that expires in April 2005.

We urge the Coastal Conservancy to approve funding for this project to provide significant ecological benefit for the San Francisco Bay Estuary. Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


David Lewis
Executive Director

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FEB 09 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

SAVE THE BAY



Exhibit 5: Letters of Support



P.O. Box 14428, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

January 28, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to ask your support for the application to the Coastal Conservancy San Francisco Bay Area Program to assist in the acquisition of a very unique and important asset for our tribe and for the entire state of California, namely the Tolay Lake property in Sonoma County.

The property is of particular interest to me since many members of our tribe are direct descendants of people having lived in one of two major aboriginal villages surrounding the lake, or what was once the lake, as the water was drained from it over 100 years ago. I had heard in family stories that the lake and surrounding area was highly sacred and once was considered one of three areas in all of northern and central California where Indian doctors from different tribes convened for sacred ceremonies and the exchange of ritual objects and songs for the purpose of healing.

For my people, the Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo known today as the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, stories are all that remain of a past where our doctors and leaders kept us constantly aware of the complex relationship we share with the world in which we live. The proposed project at this site has been reviewed by members of our Sacred Sites Committee and Tribal Council and found to be of highest priority in terms of preservation.

I encourage the Coastal Commission to see the requested grant and purchase of the lakebed area in particular as necessary to tell the unique story of this place. Acquisition of the land by a public entity such as the Sonoma County Agricultural and Open Space District will ensure that the land is safely removed from the prospect of private development.

Sincerely,

Greg Sarris
Tribal Chairman

cc: Philip Sales, Sonoma County Regional Parks, 2300 County Center Dr #120A, Santa Rosa CA 95403
Andrea Mackenzie, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, 747 Mendocino Ave
Ste. 400, Santa Rosa CA 95401

Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria
P.O. Box 14428 • Santa Rosa, CA 95402 • Tel (707) 566-2288 • Fax (707) 566-2291

February 18, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Funding Assistance – Acquisition of the Cardoza Ranch

I am writing in support of your agency providing funds to help secure the acquisition of the 1,760 acre Cardoza Ranch for public ownership.

As past Director of the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department, I have experienced the frustration of trying to locate and acquire a site for a regional park in the southern portion of Sonoma County.

The Cardoza Ranch property currently being sought by the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department and County's Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District provides an outstanding opportunity to protect and preserve the Ranch through public ownership.

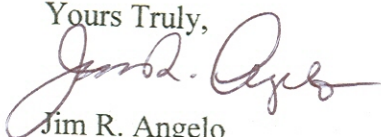
The Native American and cultural history of the Ranch will provide the public with a rare glimpse of what Sonoma County may have looked like a hundred years ago. In ancient times Native Americans used the site as a gathering place and spiritual center. Hundreds of charm stones carved by Native Americans have been found in the ancient lake bed. The purchase of the Ranch is the only way to insure that this rich history will be protected and preserved.

The public would benefit with a variety of appropriate outdoor recreational uses not available in that part of the County. In fact, the public benefit would extend beyond Sonoma County with national significance of the historical and cultural resources found at the Ranch.

Once the Ranch was purchased there would be opportunities for public and private agencies and individuals to continue to partner in restoring and protecting the oak woodlands, wildlife, grass lands, Tolay Creek, and the seasonal lake.

I urge you to assist in the acquisition of the Cardoza Ranch. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Truly,



Jim R. Angelo
5785 Dolores Drive
Rohnert Park, Calif. 94928

Phone: 707 584 7181

Email: j-angelo@sbcglobal.net

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MAR 03 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

Happy Horse Care

Sonoma County's Leading Horse Care Outsource Service

SPILLMAN/ARNOLD

February 14, 2005

The California State Wildlife Conservation Board
And
The California State Coastal Conservancy

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

As a long time resident of Sonoma County, I am writing to express my strong support of funding for the Tolay Lake Ranch acquisition.

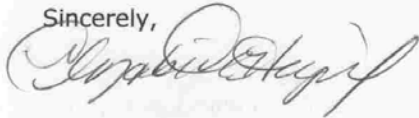
One need only visit this spectacular site to realize that public ownership will help protect it's natural beauty and it's 4,000 year history for future generations. Restoring the only remaining natural freshwater lake in San Pablo Bay will preserve a most important habitat for wildlife, including Red-legged Frogs and Golden Eagles. Additionally, it will protect Tolay Creek as well as providing miles of open space trails for a variety of uses.

As an avid Equestrian, counted among the over 14,000 horses here in Sonoma County, primary to our concerns is the great need for open space enjoyment from horseback. The Tolay Lake Ranch property will provide all with the benefits and advantages for multi-use, multi-educational opportunities.

Please help us to protect, restore, and enhance this remarkable resource for current and future generations.

Thank you for your considerations towards our goal and for all you do.

Sincerely,



~ Elizabeth T. Hugill Happy Horse Care ~

P.O. Box 424 ♦ Fulton, CA 95439-0424

707 573 8657 ♦ Fax 707 573 0151

www.happyhorsecare.com

RECEIVED

FEB 23 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

Spellman + Arnold

1/28/05

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing in support of the Coastal Conservancy funding the Solary Lake Ranch purchase.

This large property with its ancient freshwater lake has been lovingly husbanded by three generations of the Cardoza family. They offered it first to Sonoma County Regional Parks + the Agricultural Preservation + Open Space District because they felt it was a more appropriate use than residential development for a privileged few.

By now I hope you've toured this wonderful property + seen what a unique opportunity this is. Thank you for your consideration.

cc: Philip Sales
Son. Co. Regional Parks
2300 City Blvd. #120A
Santa Rosa CA 95403

RECEIVED

FEB 02 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Sincerely
Ann Amyes
1508 ERIC CT
Tetaluma CA 94954

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing in support of the Coastal Conservancy funding Tolay Lake Ranch property acquisition.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

Site: 1,737 acres in southern Sonoma County between Petaluma and Sonoma valley.

Watershed protection: Over a mile of Tolay Creek and associated watershed would be protected under public ownership.

Lake Restoration Opportunity: Ancient Tolay Lake was once the largest natural freshwater lake in the north San Francisco Bay Area. Now it is the only remaining natural freshwater lake in the San Pablo Bay watershed. Restoration would benefit wildlife and waterfowl with open water, emergent marsh, and shallow- and deep-water habitat.

Wildlife: The property is habitat for California Red-legged Frog and several other species of concern including Burrowing Owls, White Tailed Kites, Golden Eagles, Northwestern Pond Turtles, Horned Larks, Tri colored Blackbirds, and Northern Harriers.

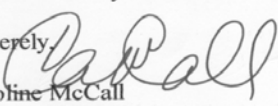
Public Access and Open Space: Miles of trails accommodating various users are possible on the site. Opportunities for habitat enhancement and restoration, cultural resource conservation, recreation, and environmental education are possible.

Regional: The Cardoza Ranch already draws from at least 13 counties around the Bay for the Pumpkin Festival

Urgency: Zoning and the General Plan allow for development of up to 28 "ranchettes." The one-year option between the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and the Cordoza Family ends this April. Without purchase, the property will be back on the market.]

For these reasons I strongly support this opportunity to acquire Tolay Lake Ranch. Thank you for considering this grant application.

Sincerely,


Caroline McCall
1302 Sunset Drive
Petaluma, CA
94952

cc: Philip Sales, Sonoma County Regional Parks
2300 County Center Dr #120A, Santa Rosa CA 95403

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JAN 27 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

January 22, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: *Preserving the Cardoza Ranch as Tolay Lake Regional Park*

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I appreciate the opportunity to write a letter of support for funding for this project.

The proximity of this beautiful expansive property to the recently acquired Dickson Ranch and relation to the San Pablo Bay watershed are significant in terms of preserving our California coastal vistas and water resources.

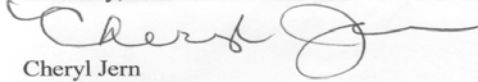
In addition, as you are likely aware, the ancient Tolay Lake which is to be restored was once the largest freshwater lake in the north San Francisco Bay area. Restoration would lead to enhanced wetlands, marsh and shallow and deep water habitat for wildlife.

The larger property of grasslands, ridges and oak woodlands provides for expansive open space preservation, with low impact trails for hiking and horseback riding.

To save our water resources and wildlife habitat, education of our youth to respect and appreciate natural resources will give us hope for the future. This property, with its rich cultural heritage, vast open spaces, water resources and wildlife, provides a most appropriate setting for such education - and recreation for families, as well.

I encourage the Coastal Conservancy to generously participate in funding toward acquisition of the Cardoza Ranch to become the Tolay Lake Regional Park.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Jern
600 Paula Lane
Petaluma, CA 94952

RECEIVED

JAN 26 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

cc: Philip Sales, Sonoma County Regional Parks
2300 County Center Drive, #120A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing in support of the Coastal Conservancy funding Tolay Lake Ranch property acquisition.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

Site: 1,737 acres in southern Sonoma County between Petaluma and Sonoma valley.

Watershed protection: Over a mile of Tolay Creek and associated watershed would be protected under public ownership.

Lake Restoration Opportunity: Ancient Tolay Lake was once the largest natural freshwater lake in the north San Francisco Bay Area. Now it is the only remaining natural freshwater lake in the San Pablo Bay watershed. Restoration would benefit wildlife and waterfowl with open water, emergent marsh, and shallow- and deep-water habitat.

Wildlife: The property is habitat for California Red-legged Frog and several other species of concern including Burrowing Owls, White Tailed Kites, Golden Eagles, Northwestern Pond Turtles, Horned Larks, Tri colored Blackbirds, and Northern Harriers.

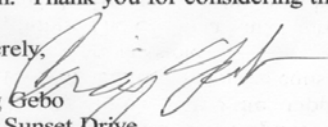
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Regional: The Cardoza Ranch already draws from at least 13 counties around the Bay for the Pumpkin Festival

Urgency: Zoning and the General Plan allow for development of up to 28 "ranchettes." The one-year option between the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and the Cordoza Family ends this April. Without purchase, the property will be back on the market.]

For these reasons I strongly support this opportunity to acquire Tolay Lake Ranch. Thank you for considering this grant application.

Sincerely,


Craig Gebo
1302 Sunset Drive
Petaluma, CA
94952

cc: Philip Sales, Sonoma County Regional Parks
2300 County Center Dr #120A, Santa Rosa CA 95403

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JAN 27 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

January 23, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Tolay Lake Ranch property acquisition

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing in support of Coastal Conservancy funding for Tolay Lake Ranch.

As an education professional, I would love to take young people to this special land, to see a restored freshwater lake, rich in Native American culture, artifacts and folklore. I would love to walk quietly with young people on low impact trails, up into the grasslands and hills, carrying binoculars, and observe the Golden Eagles flying overhead, then circle back to look for wildlife in the wetlands, marsh areas and lake, including the California Red-Legged Frog.

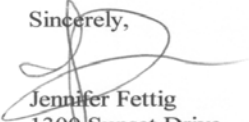
The location of this 1737 acre property would mean I could bring students to visit, relax and learn from Sonoma County, Napa County, Marin County, and further south in San Francisco.

This potential regional park site is ideal.

When an opportunity such as this presents itself - to provide for our children's future, to educate about respecting water resources and wildlife species, to enjoy the out of doors and appreciate nature - it is always in everyone's best interest to act wisely and in a timely manner.

I urge the Coastal Conservancy to generously participate in funding for the Tolay Lake Ranch property acquisition.

Sincerely,


Jennifer Fettig
1300 Sunset Drive
Petaluma, CA 94952

cc: Philip Sales, Sonoma County Regional Parks
2300 County Center Drive, #120A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

RECEIVED
JAN 27 2005
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

January 23, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Tolay Lake Ranch property acquisition

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing in support of Coastal Conservancy funding for Tolay Lake Ranch.

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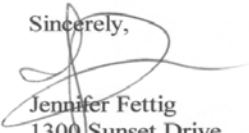
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I urge the Coastal Conservancy to generously participate in funding for the Tolay Lake Ranch property acquisition.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Fettig
1300 Sunset Drive
Petaluma, CA 94952

cc: Philip Sales, Sonoma County Regional Parks
2300 County Center Drive, #120A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

RECEIVED
JAN 27 2005
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

January 22, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: *Tolay Lake Ranch property acquisition*

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing in support of funding by the Coastal Conservancy for this project.

The Cardoza Ranch already has established regional significance with its annual Pumpkin Festival in October. Thousands of families and individuals from at least 13 counties around the Bay Area visit the ranch. The plan to maintain the Pumpkin Festival as a traditional component of the new regional park is appealing and supported by all who have their own family or individual tradition of visiting the ranch each October for pumpkins and Fall festivities.

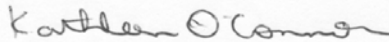
Evolving from this tradition, the plan to restore the freshwater Tolay Lake has importance that cannot be overstated. With scarce and overused water resources, the possibility of the lake and permanent migratory stopover for birds would contribute to sustaining wildlife resources.

For hikers and nature lovers, walking on low impact trails amid vast open spaces of grasslands and oak woodlands to enjoy the beautiful vistas from the ridges also makes this property a most appropriate park site.

The ability to appreciate the San Pablo Bay watershed and its elements adjacent to and on the Tolay Lake property can also lead to wonderful educational opportunities for our youth.

Please seriously consider the grant application for funding toward acquisition of the Tolay Lake Ranch property.

Sincerely,



Kathleen O'Connor
594 Paula Lane
Petaluma, CA 94952

cc: Philip Sales, Sonoma County Regional Parks
2300 County Center Drive, #120A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

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JAN 27 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

January 21, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing in support of Coastal Conservancy funding for the Tolay Lake Regional Park.

The plan for a cultural educational center for Native American history and watershed preservation is very exciting. The possibility of restoring Tolay Lake to its natural state is a positive aspect of this property acquisition. As you are probably aware, the ancient Tolay Lake was once the largest natural freshwater lake in the north San Francisco Bay area. In addition, protecting over a mile of Tolay Creek will contribute to the greater watershed.

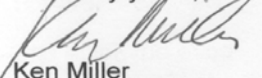
By restoring and protecting water resources, the path will be established for restored wildlife habitat for waterfowl and other species who rely on marshes, wetlands and open fresh water bodies for survival.

For the human species, the vast open spaces with grasslands and oak woodlands, providing low impact trail access for hiking, horseback riding, birdwatching, and just enjoying a rejuvenation of the spirit from the out of doors experience will contribute to a higher quality of life for all of us in the Bay area.

The location of the over 1700 acres of land in south Sonoma County between Petaluma and the Sonoma Valley will provide convenient access from the east, south, west and north, so many people can enjoy the experience of the regional park.

I urge the Coastal Conservancy to participate in funding for this wonderful natural resources opportunity.

Sincerely yours,


Ken Miller
600 Paula Lane
Petaluma, CA 94952

RECEIVED

JAN 26 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

cc: Philip Sales, Sonoma County Regional Parks
2300 County Center Drive, #120A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

January 22, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing in support of funding by the Coastal Conservancy for the Tolay Lake Ranch property acquisition.

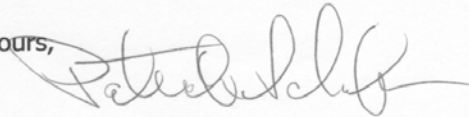
This 1700+ acre property is a gateway to Sonoma County, situated between Petaluma and the Sonoma Valley. It can serve to provide low impact recreational activities for families and individuals from all over the Bay area.

The vistas from the ridges - looking out to Golden Gate Bridge and the Bay - are stunning. Restoring the freshwater Tolay Lake is also a very positive feature of the plans for the regional park. Water resources conservation, along with Native American cultural heritage and folklore information specific to the area, can be focal points for education.

Perhaps most importantly, restoration of water resources and grasslands will lead to enhanced and protected wildlife habitat areas. Young people will only need to visit the area a few times to see the miracles of migratory bird restovers or Golden Eagles flying overhead or wildlife species who survive only in marshes or wetlands areas to appreciate Nature and have special memories that lead to active protection and preservation in their lives.

Please consider generous funding for the Tolay Lake Regional Park. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Patrick Schafer
594 Paula Lane
Petaluma, CA 94952

cc: Philip Sales, Sonoma County Regional Parks
2300 County Center Drive, #120A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

RECEIVED
JAN 27 2005
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

January 22, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing in support of Coastal Conservancy funding for the **Tolay Lake Ranch**.

I've been participating in the volunteer effort since learning of a possible south county regional park from our 2nd District County Supervisor, Mike Kerns. I find three aspects of the park particularly appealing, and I believe they relate to the Coastal Conservancy's mission and goals.

1. Restoration of the **freshwater lake**, Tolay Lake. Not only is this a large body of fresh water that can serve as an important (and anticipated beautiful site to see) migratory bird stopover location, it is rich in Native American history and folklore - both of which could provide important educational opportunities for our youth.

Since children are our future - and their understanding of a watershed and its components would be critical to preservation into *their* future - education associated with the natural resources enhances this first aspect.

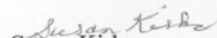
2. When I had the opportunity to visit the ranch and take a tour, I was able to relax and breathe freely amid the **vast open spaces** and expanses of grasslands, then feel cool and comfortable as we traversed the very old and mature oak woodlands area. The open spaces on the land and the views to the coast to the south and east were stunning. Even on a foggy day we could see the Golden Gate Bridge and the Bay. As we stood on the ridge and looked at the panoramic views, Golden Eagles flew overhead.

3. As Supervisor Mike Kerns has said, in his service and role on the County Board of Supervisors, he has long been looking for an ideal site for a south county regional park. The location of the Cardoza Ranch is already established for visitors from over 13 counties, with the annual tradition of the Pumpkin Festival in October, which I understand would continue as part of the park activities. The property is part of the San Pablo Bay watershed and is a gateway and **easily accessible to the public** from east, south, west and north.

There are many elements that contribute to the property being ideal for a south county regional park and multi-source funding to help accomplish this - but these three in particular - water resources and education, vast open space for public access and wildlife habitat; and property location and proximity to other parts of the San Pablo Bay watershed - contribute to a potential ideal funding situation for the Coastal Conservancy, in my view.

I encourage the Coastal Conservancy to add funding for the Tolay Lake Ranch property acquisition to your list of achievements of excellence.

Sincerely,


Susan Kirks
P.O. Box 2903
Petaluma, CA 94953

cc: Philip Sales, Sonoma County Regional Parks, 2300 County Center Drive, #120A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

RECEIVED

JAN 27 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

January 22, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing in support of funding by the Coastal Conservancy for the Tolay Lake Ranch property acquisition.

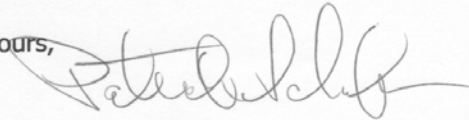
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Please consider generous funding for the Tolay Lake Regional Park. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Patrick Schafer
594 Paula Lane
Petaluma, CA 94952

cc: Philip Sales, Sonoma County Regional Parks
2300 County Center Drive, #120A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

RECEIVED
JAN 27 2005
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

February 20, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in very strong support of funding for the Tolay Ranch acquisition.

I visited the area during the Cardoza Ranch Pumpkin Festival along with hundreds of other festive visitors. I immediately fell in love with the area as a gem of landscape and nature. Public ownership will help to protect and restore this only remaining natural freshwater lake in San Pablo Bay area. It will preserve important habitat for fish and other wildlife, including Red-legged Frogs, Golden Eagles, and many other species. It will also protect Tolay Creek and provide miles of trails for a variety of uses.

Tolay Lake Park will create numerous opportunities for habitat enhancement and restoration, cultural resource conservation, and environmental education.

Please help to protect, restore, and enhance this remarkable resource for current and future peoples. I strongly support this opportunity to acquire Tolay Lake Ranch. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael Kraus
504 Keokuk Street
Petaluma, CA 94952

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MAR 03 2005
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.